

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A branch tee fitting comprising: a tubular body portion (11) having a pair of
5 openings at both ends; and a tubular branch portion (12) perpendicular to the tubular body
portion (11), the tubular body portion (11) and the tubular branch portion (12) being
formed in such a manner that one plate (1a) is bent and along a plane inclusive of the
center line of the tubular body portion (11) and the center line of the tubular branch portion
(12), facing edges of the bent plate (1a) are joined in superposed relation, angles between
10 the tubular body portion (11) and the tubular branch portion (12) being formed with flat
portions (13), respectively, in which corners of the plates (1a) are superposed to each other,

wherein the branch tee fitting includes engaging pawls (14) for engaging the
superposed flat portions (13).

2. The fitting of claim 1,
15 wherein each of the engaging pawls (14) is formed on one of the superposed flat
portions (13), and constructed so that it is bent over the other of the flat portions (13) to
engage both of the flat portions (13).

3. The fitting of claim 2,
wherein each of the flat portions (13) is formed in a substantially triangular region
20 defined by a base end of the tubular branch portion (12) and an edge side which is a
straight line connecting associated corner points of the tubular body portion (11) and the
tubular branch portion (12).

4. The fitting of claim 3,
wherein each of the engaging pawls (14) is arranged at the middle position of the
25 edge side of the corresponding flat portion (13).

5. The fitting of claim 4,
wherein each of the engaging pawls (14) is formed in a triangular shape whose

width decreases with distance from the edge side of the flat portion (13).

6. The fitting of claim 1,

wherein the tubular body portion (11) and the tubular branch portion (12) are provided with: fitting portions (11a, 12a) which are fitted with pipes (P) inserted therein;
5 and small diameter portions (11b, 12b) which have smaller diameters than the fitting portions (11a, 12a), respectively.